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COMMITTEE

ON
GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2011-2012)

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTIETH REPORT

REQUESTS FOR DROPPING OF ASSURANCES

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 May, 2012

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

May, 2012/Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2011 - 2012)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Hansaraj Gangaram Ahir
3. Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana
4. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
5. Shri Dara Singh Chauhan
6. Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury
7. Shri Ram Sundar Das
8. Smt. J. Helen Davidson
9. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
10. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra
11. Shri Ramkishun
12.# Rajkumari Ratna Singh
13. Shri Takam Sanjoy
14. Shri Jagadanand Singh
15.@ Shri Rajendra Agrawal

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri P. Sreedharan	-	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri R.S. Kambo	-	Director
3.	Shri T.S. Rangarajan	-	Additional Director
4.	Shri Kulvinder Singh	-	Committee Officer

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* The Committee was constituted w.e.f. 23 September, 2011 *vide* Para No. 3376 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 24 November, 2011.

@ Nominated to the Committee on 3 February, 2012 vice Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, M.P. resigned Lok Sabha [Refer to Para No. 3629 & 3630 dated 3 February, 2012.]

\# Nominated to the Committee on 2 May, 2012 vice Shri Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy, M.P. resigned Lok Sabha [Refer to Para No. 3688 dated 29 February, 2012 and 3993 dated 2 May, 2012.]

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twentieth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2011-2012) at their sitting held on 26 April, 2012 considered Memoranda Nos. 2 to 41 respectively containing requests received from the Ministries/Departments for dropping of pending assurances and decided to pursue 17 assurances.

3. At their sitting held on 14 May, 2012, the Committee (2011-2012) considered and adopted their Twentieth Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sitting of the Committee form part of this report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;

14 May, 2012

Vaisakha 24, 1934 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

REPORT

While replying to Questions in the House or during discussions on Bills, Resolutions, Motions, etc., Ministers sometimes give assurances, undertakings or promises either to consider a matter, take action or furnish information to the House at some later date. An assurance is required to be implemented by the Ministry concerned within a period of three months. Where a Ministry are unable to implement the assurances within the prescribed period of three months, they are required to seek extension of time. In case, the Ministry finds it difficult in implementing the assurances on one ground or the other, they are required to approach the Committee on Government Assurances requesting to drop the assurances. Such requests are considered by the Committee on merits and decisions taken to drop an assurance or otherwise.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2011-12) considered the following requests received from Ministries/Departments for dropping of assurances at their sitting held on 26 April, 2012:-

SQ/USQ No. & Date	Ministry	Subject in Brief
USQ No. 4130 dated 16.12.2002	Civil Aviation	Strategy for Traffic Development
SQ No. 6 dated 21.7.2003	Culture	Theft of Antiques

USQ No. 3050 dated 13.8.2003	**Women and Child Development**	**National Action Plan for Empowerment of Women**
USQ No. 4022 dated 17.5.2006	**Planning**	**Implementation of RGGV Yojana**
(i) SQ No. 85 dated 17.8.2007 **(ii) SQ No. 350 dated 14.12.2009** **(iii) USQ No. 1770 dated 8.3.2010** **(iv) USQ No. 3543 dated 16.8.2010** **(v) USQ No. 990 dated 15.11.2010**	**Rural Development**	**Finalization of BPL List** **Recommendations of Saxena Committee** **Census of BPL Families** **Agricultural Labourers under BPL List** **Survey for BPL Population**
USQ No. 610 Dated 3.3.2008	**Culture**	**Scanning and uploading of written material on computers**
USQ No. 362 Dated 7.7.2009	**Road Transport & Highways**	**Construction of 4-Lane Road between Jalandhar by-pass to Dhilwan-Amritsar**
USQ No. 1592 Dated 15.7.2009	**Health & Family Welfare**	**Trauma Centres along National Highways**
USQ No. 4033 dated 15.12.2009	**Agriculture**	**High Yielding Varieties of Crops**
USQ No. 5408 dated 28.4.2010	**Human Resource Development**	**Quality of Engineering Education**
USQ No. 6481 dated 5.5.2010	**Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**	**Probe of Financial Irregularities by Bureaucrats**
USQ No. 2386 dated 24.11.2010	**Human Resource Development**	**Corruption in AICTE**
USQ No. 2692 dated 25.11.2010	**Railways**	**Sport Specific Academies**
USQ No. 4174 dated 6.12.2010	**Communications & Information Technology**	**Interception of Mobile Calls**

SQ No. 108 dated 3.3.2011	**Law and Justice**	**Alleged Corruption in Judiciary**
USQ No. 2483 dated 10.3.2011	**Railways**	**Educational Institutions**
USQ No. 229 dated 1.8.2011	**Defence**	**Indigenous Aircraft Carrier**

3. The details of the assurances arising out of the replies and the reason(s) advanced by the Ministries/Departments for dropping of the assurances are given in Appendix-I.

4. The Minutes of the sittings of the Committee, whereunder the requests for dropping of the assurances, were considered, are given in Appendix-II.

5. After having considered the requests of the Ministries/Departments, the Committee are not convinced with the reasons furnished for dropping the assurances. The Committee desire that the Government should take note of the observations of the Committee, as contained in Annexure-II and take appropriate action, for the implementation of the assurances expeditiously.

NEW DELHI;

14 May, 2012

Vaisakha 24, 1934 (Saka)

MANEKA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Appendix-I
(*vide Para 3 of the Report)*

[i] STRATEGY FOR TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENT

On 16 December, 2002 Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4130 to the Minister of Civil Aviation. The contents of the question alongwith its reply are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry has sought extension of time upto 23 August, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Civil Aviation vide their OM No.H.11016/186/2002-AAI dated 10th June, 2009 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"The question was based on the Task Force on Development Strategy to project the Traffic Demand upto 2025, constituted by A&N Administration, having Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Home Affairs and M/o Road Transport as its members. There was no agenda relating to Civil Aviation before the Task Force and no representative of this Ministry was included in the Task Force.

At the time of framing the reply to this question, it has been realized that the question does not pertain to this Ministry. However, due to paucity of time this Ministry handled the question and an Assurance was given in the house. Subsequently, Ministry of Shipping was requested to accept the transfer of Assurance for fulfillment. Ministry of Shipping, however, declined to accept transfer on the plea that the Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry in respect of A&N Administration. On a request, Ministry of Home Affairs too did not accept Transfer of Assurance.

However, this Ministry made an attempt to fulfill the assurance on the basis of available material collected from various sources, which was treated as partially fulfilled by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. This Ministry has no additional information to provide. Ministry of Shipping was again requested to accept the transfer of Assurance, since the matter pertains to their Ministry. This was also of no avail. This assurance

has been pending since 16.3.2003 inspite of best efforts made to obtain the information from the concerned Ministries/Departments/A&N Administration, it has not been possible for this Ministry to fulfill the assurance."

4. The Ministry of Civil Aviation vide their O.M. No. H.11016/186/2002-AAI dated 4 February, 2011 have furnished the following additional reasons for dropping the assurance:-

"In continuation to this Ministry's above said communications, it is to say that the matter was raised during the Oral Evidence taken by the Committee on Government Assurances recently and thereafter, a reply was sent to Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament as well as the Chairperson of the Committee stating that this Ministry is not related to the Task Force constituted on Development Strategy to project the Traffic Demand. The orders for constitution of the Task Force were issued by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration Secretariat on the 17th January, 2001. As is evident, the Ministry of Civil Aviation was not even a member of this Committee and since this Ministry was also not a nodal Ministry for dealing with this subject.

In the above said letter, it was also informed that in view of the large scale demographic changes in the Islands, it may be more appropriate to look at a fresh traffic demands study. There have also been large scale increases in the deployment of the Army. Therefore, the Hon'ble Member of Parliament was requested to request Andaman & Nicobar Administration to revive this Task Force towards this objective.

This assurance has been pending since 16.03.2003. In spite of best efforts made to obtain the information from the concerned Ministries/Departments/A & N Administration, it has not been possible for this Ministry to fulfill the assurance. Therefore, it is requested that consideration on dropping of the assurance may be expedited as the question was based on the Task Force on Development Strategy to project the Traffic Demand upto 2025, constituted by A & N Administration, having Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport as its members and there was no agenda relating to Civil Aviation before the Task Force and no representative of this Ministry was included in the said Task Force."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Civil Aviation, have requested to drop the above assurance.

6. In this connection it is submitted that the above assurance was partly implemented vide Statement V, item No. 3 on 21 August, 2003 (copy enclosed).

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4130

ANSWERED ON 16.12.2002

STRATEGY FOR TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENT

4130. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have constituted a Task Force to Project Traffic demand by 2025;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to engage to prepare the Project Report;

(c) if so, whether a Scheme relating to development strategy to project the Traffic demand upto the year 2025 formulated by the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is under the consideration of the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, by when the scheme will be cleared?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b) :- Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) :- The information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

11th Session, 2002 of 13th Lok Sabha

Ministry of Civil Aviation Date of Fulfilment: 17.07.2003

Q. No. Date & Name of M.P(s).	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 4130 dated 16.12.2002 by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray	STRATEGY FOR TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENT Asking for:- (a) whether the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have constituted a Task Force to project Traffic demand by 2025; (b) if so, whether there is any proposal to engage to prepare the project report; (c) if so, whether a scheme relating to development strategy to project the Traffic demand upto the year 2025 formulated by the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is under the consideration of Planning Commission; and (d) if so, by when the scheme will be cleared?	(c) & (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	(c)&(d): There are different regular approved schemes for Road Transport and Shipping Services in the 10th Five Year Plan, which are under implementation to meet the projected traffic demand. A decision on the Traffic Task Force's report would have to await its submission, examination and acceptance by the Planning Commission, Ministry of Shipping and A & N Administration. Formulation of specific schemes would follow after examination of the above report.	It took some time to collect the information. Hence, the delay.

[ii] THEFT OF ANTIQUES

On 21 July, 2003 Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 6 to the Minister of Culture. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 31 December, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 3-11/2003-M-1 dated 20 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the assurance involves investigations of CBI and Police. Investigations are going on and the same are a lengthy process. Also it may not yield any conclusive result. Besides, even when any conclusion is reached, it may take even more time to get the accused punished under law. Hence the assurance cannot be fulfilled in a given time frame and the same is required to be dropped."

4. The above request of the Ministry was not acceded to by the Committee at their sitting held on 7 April, 2010 and the same was conveyed to the Ministry vide this Secretariat O.M. No. Rep./05/05/2010-(CGA) dated 5 May, 2010. The Committee accordingly presented its 7th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 05 May, 2010 and recommended that the Government should take appropriate action in the matter and implement the assurance expeditiously. The Ministry of Culture vide their O.M. No. F.

3-11/2003-M-I dated 01 July, 2011 have again requested to drop the above assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That all necessary steps within the mandate of Ministry of Culture have been taken and assurance has been fulfilled. Further steps in these cases are being taken by Police & CBI authorities (CBI's case is at the stage of framing of charges in the cases namely RC 1/2003-EOU-VIII and RC 2/2003-EOU-VIII) and the cases are in progress. A brief status note in respect of the steps taken to implement the pending assurances is also appended."

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of Culture, have requested to drop the above assurance.

The Present Status of pending assurance in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 6 answered on 21.07.2003 regarding 'Theft of Antiquities' is as below:-

Sl. No.	Description of Object	Name of Monuments & Location	Date of theft	Steps taken by ASI/MoC	Present Status
1.	Three Stone Sculptures	Kadambarkoil Narthamalai, Distt. Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu	27.01.03	FIR lodged by ASI	One recovered. No further progress made regarding other two.
2.	Stone Sculpture	Temple of Akona, Distt. Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh	02.02.03	FIR had been lodged by ASI	No further progress is reported.
3.	i) Head female ii) Icon of Jain Tirthankar Mahavir	Sculpture Shed Gyaraspur, Distt. Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh	02.03.02	FIR was lodged by ASI in Police Station, Gyaras (IR PM 03.03.2002 vide Sec. 457 and 380 of IPC.	Both the sculpture have not been recovered.
4.	Small Stone Sculpture of Nandi	Sri Kapoteswara Swamy Temple, Guntur Distt., Andhra Pradesh	11/12.03.03	FIR lodged.	No further progress is reported.
5.	Attempt to export 12 Terracotta panels, two stone idols and two pitchers of terracotta from IGI Airport, Delhi to Zurich, Switzerland	New Delhi	30.01.03	Charged sheet was filed by the CBI against the five accused persons u/s 120-B r/w 419, 420/511, 468, 471 IPC r/w sec. 25 (1) Sec. 3 of AAT Act., 1972 and substantive offences u/s 419, 420 r/w 511, 468, 471 IPC and sec 25(1) r/w 3 of AAT Act.,	The case is at the stage of framing of charge.

				1972 on 08.09.2004 in the court of CMM, Delhi	
6.	Stocking of 12 stone idols dating back to 10th and 14th Century A.D. in a go down at Mahipalpur, Delhi	New Delhi	30.01.2003	The complaint against three accused persons was filed by CBI u/s 120-B r/w 25(2) and 14(3) of AAT Act, 1972 in the court of CMM, Delhi 11.12.2003	The case is at the stage of framing of charge.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6

ANSWERED ON 21.7.2003

THEFT OF ANTIQUES

*6. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA

Will the Minister of Tourism and Culture be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a number of cases of theft/smuggling of antique items from National Museum and other places in the country have been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to prevent theft/smuggling of religious statues and other artefacts; and

(d) if so, the details of the said scheme ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.6 FOR 21.7.2003 BY SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH AND DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA REGARDING `THEFT OF ANTIQUES`

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently the theft of a pistol from National Museum, New Delhi has been reported and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has reported recent thefts of 4 items from the protected monuments/sites, as given in the Annexure - I to this statement. In all these cases First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged with the Police authorities for investigation. Recently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also registered two cases relating to theft/smuggling of antique items as per Annexure -

II. Besides, various state governments also take action in cases of thefts/smuggling in their respective states.

(c) & (d) In the museums and monuments administered by the government, adequate security measures by way of deployment of security personnel and installing security equipment are provided. The Government has enacted the `Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972` with a view to prevent the smuggling of antiquities and art objects. As per the provisions of this Act, export of antiquities is prohibited. Any export in violation of this Act is an offence for which assistance of Interpol can be obtained. Only the Central Government or an authority or an agency authorised by the Central government may temporarily export any antiquity or art treasure and such export shall be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of a `Temporary Export Permit` issued for the purpose by the Director General, ASI.

Further, under the United Nations `Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit export, Import and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property` assistance of UNESCO can be sought for restitution of the smuggled cultural property of the Nation. India is a signatory to this convention.

Annexure-I

Sl. No.	Description of Objects	Name of Monuments & Location	Date of Theft	Status
1.	Three Stone sculptures	Kadambarkoil Narthamalai Distt-Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu	27.01.2003	FIR lodged. Under Investigation
2.	Stone Sculpture	Temples of Akona, Distt-Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh	02.02.2003	FIR lodged. Under Investigation
3.	i) Head of female ii) Icon of Jain Tirthankar Mahavir	Sculpture shed Gyaraspur, Distt. Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh	02.03.2003	FIR lodged. Under Investigation
4.	Small stone sculpture	Sri Kapoteswara Swamy temple, Guntur Distt. Andhra Pradesh	11/12.03.03	FIR lodged. Under Investigation

Annexure-II

Sl. No.	Description of Objects and crime	Location	Date of Registration of Case	Status
1.	Attempt to export 12 Terracotta and panels, two stone idols, and two pitchers of terracotta from IGI Airport, Delhi to Zurich, Switzerland	New Delhi	30.01.2003	Accused persons arrested, under active investigation.
2.	Stocking of 12 stone idols dating back to 10th and 14th Century A.D. in a godown at Mahipalpur, Delhi	New Delhi	30.01.2003	Accused persons arrested, under active investigation.

[iii] NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

On 13 August, 2003 S/Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and Ashok Namdeorao Mohol, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 3050 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. However, in the meantime the transfer of the assurance was accepted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 30 June, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Women and Child Development vide O. M. No. 6-66/2003-WW dated 29 September, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That as part of the Strategic Plan for the next five years, the Ministry envisages finalization of the Plan of Action after undertaking extensive consultations on the National Policy for Empowerment of Women (NPEW). As this process would take time, it may not be feasible to fulfill the assurance in the immediate future.
>
> In view of the above, it is requested that the Committee on Government Assurances, Lok Sabha may be moved for considering deletion of the above assurance. The Committee will, however, be informed as soon as the action pertaining to the policy in question reaches fructification."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3050

ANSWERED ON 13.08.2003

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

3050. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any national action plan for empowerment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said action plan is likely to be implemented?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a),(b)&(c) The Government is in the process of drafting a national action plan for implementing the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001.

[iv] IMPLEMENTATION OF RGGV YOJANA

On 17 May, 2006 Shri Subodh Mohite, M.P, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4022 to the Minister of Planning. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Planning within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Planning vide O.M. No. 11016/1/2006-RE (P&E) dated 10 January, 2010 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the progress of a scheme is generally evaluated over a period/Plan period. In view of this, the Committee on Government Assurances is requested to kindly drop the above assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of State (Planning), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4022

ANSWERED ON 17.5.2006

IMPLEMENTATION OF RGGV YOJANA

4022. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Planning Commission has highlighted several critical shortcomings in the implementation of the Rs.16,000 crore Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has evaluated the progress made under the scheme during the year 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the target fixed under the scheme has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): Planning Commission sent written replies on Rs.16,000 Crore Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) to Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination of Demand for Grants for Ministry of Planning for 2006-07 indicating critical shortcomings in implementation of RGGVY. The details are as follows:

(i) The revised definition for village electrification requires electrification of 10% of the total households in that village to be recognized as electrified. The number of villages electrified in 2005-06 as reported by Ministry of Power (as on 28.03.2006) is 7741 villages & 14,741 rural households (including 4547 BPL households) against the target of 10,000 villages. Clearly the claim relating to the number of villages electrified appears high when compared to the number of households actually electrified. This needs independent verification to assess ground realities.

(ii) The current objective of the RGGVY does not match the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) objective viz. electrification of all households in five years. The current objective aims to only provide electricity access to all rural households over a period of 5 years and electricity connections only to BPL households. Thus at the end of 5 years all households will not be electrified as envisaged by NCMP.

(iii) Government of India approved RGGVY with 90% capital subsidy on the condition that the revenue sustainability of the RE programme will be established with this level of capital subsidy. However, it is increasingly clear that with the current load profile of rural India continuing State Government subsidies would be inevitable unless the programme is required to be implemented differently by a suitable Rural Electrification policy.

(c): Planning Commission has not yet evaluated the progress made under the scheme during 2005-06.

(d): Ministry of Power on the basis of reports received from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has indicated that 9819 un-electrified villages have been electrified in 2005-06 against the target of 10,000 villages. In addition, 350 electrified villages have been covered for intensive electrification, which involves provision of access to electricity to rural households.

(e) & (f): In view of the above the questions do not arise.

[v] FINALIZATION OF BPL LIST

Subject: Request for dropping of assurances given in replies to:-

(i) Starred Question No. 85 dated 17 August, 2007 regarding "Finalization of BPL List" (Annexure-I).
(ii) Starred Question No. 350 dated 14 December, 2009 regarding "Recommendations of Saxena Committee" (Annexure-II),
(iii) Unstarred Question No. 1770 dated 8 March, 2010 regarding "Census of BPL Families" (Annexure-III),
(iv) Unstarred Question No. 3543 dated 16 August, 2010 regarding " Agricultural Labourers under BPL List" (Annexure-IV), and
(v) Unstarred Question No. 990 dated 15 November, 2010 regarding "Survey for BPL Population" (Annexure-V).

On 17 August, 2007, 14 December, 2009, 8 March, 2010, 16 August, 2010 and 15 November, 2010, S/Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Kaushalendra Kumar, Kirodi Lal Meena, P.Lingam, Harsh Vardhan, Dara Singh Chauhan, Anand Prakash Parkanjpe, Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal, K.J.S.P Reddy, Harish Choudhary, Ijairaj Singh, Ramashankar Rajbhar,Gurudas Dasgupta, Smt. Bijoy Chakravarty and Shri Om Prakash Yadav M.Ps. respectively addressed the above questions to the Minster of Rural Development. The texts of the Questions alongwith the replies of the Minister of Rural Development, are as given in Annexure I to V.

2. The replies to the above questions were treated as assurances by the Committee and were required to be implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development within three months from the dates of their replies. However the assurances are yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 17 August, 2011, 13 December, 2011, 07 December, 2011, 15 August, 2011 and 14 February, 2011 in respect of assurances given in replies to (i) SQ No. 85 dated 17 August, 2007 (ii) SQ

No. 350 dated 14 December, 2009 (iii) USQ No. 1770 dated 8 March, 2010 (iv) USQ No. 3543 dated 16 August, 2010 and (v) USQ No. 990 dated 15 November, 2010 respectively.

3. The Ministry of Rural Development *vide* their O.M. No. H-11014/1/2009-A.I. (RD) dated 29 June, 2010 had requested to drop the assurances given in replies to two assurance i.e SQ No. 350 dated 14 December, 2009 & USQ No. 1770 dated 8 March, 2010 on the following grounds:-

> "That the Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of people living below the Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas of the country, taking into account the suggestions/comments of States/UTs and Central Ministries and to say that the finalizing of methodology is an on-going process. A pilot exercise is going to be conducted in approximately 260 villages. A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) would also be carried out simultaneously to corroborate the result of pilot exercise and outcome of the pilot will lead to processing the methodology.
>
> The Ministry is already in process of finalization of methodology for BPL Census. It is, therefore, requested that above assurances may kindly be dropped."

4. The request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at their sitting held on 21 July, 2011 and the Committee decided not to drop the assurances. The Committee accordingly presented its 17th Report to the House on 30 August, 2011 vide which the Committee recommended that the Ministry should take appropriate action for implementation of the assurances expeditiously.

5. The Ministry of Rural Development *vide* their O.M. No. H-11014/60/2011-A.I. (RD) dated 15 November, 2011 have again requested to drop the above five assurances on the following grounds:-

"That the finalizing of methodology is an on-going process and a Socio-Economic and Caste Census has been launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country which would be carried out by the respective State/Union Territory Governments with the financial and technical support of the Government of India. Socio-Economic and Caste Census consist of Census in Rural areas for identification of BPL households, Census in Urban areas in connection with identification of BPL households in urban areas and Caste Census throughout the country. Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) would be carried out in other States/UTs in a phased manner taking into consideration their preparedness and other relevant considerations. The SECC 2011 is targeted to be completed by December 2011. Once the BPL lists based on SECC 2011 are prepared by all the State/UTs, finalization of BPL lists based on SECC 2011 are prepared by all the State/UTs, finalization of BPL list under older BPL Census i.e. BPL Census 2002 would become irrelevant. As the Ministry has already started the process, it is requested that assurances against above questions may kindly be dropped."

6. Accordingly, the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Rural Development, have requested to drop the assurances.

Annexure-I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 85

ANSWERED ON 17.8.2007

FINALISATION OF BPL LIST

*85. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to finalise the list of BPL families;

(b) if so, whether the Below Poverty Line list has been finalized by the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in the matter?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)
(a) to (c)A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.85 to be answered on 17.08.2007

The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census to identify the households in rural areas living Below the Poverty Line who could be assisted under the programmes of this Ministry. The BPL Census is generally conducted in the beginning of the Five Year Plan and first such BPL Census was conducted in 1992 for the 8th Five Year Plan. The Ministry had issued guidelines in September, 2002 to the States and UTs to conduct the `BPL Census 2002` for the 10th Five Year Plan. However, the results of the BPL Census 2002 could not be finalized because of the stay order passed by the Hon`ble Supreme Court on 5.5.2003 during the hearing of a Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The stay was vacated by the Hon`ble Supreme Court on 14.2.2006. Immediately after vacation of the stay, the State Governments were advised to finalise the BPL list in a transparent manner. In order to ensure transparency, it is required to get the BPL lists approved by the Gram Sabhas. It was also suggested to give wide publicity to the process of preparation of BPL list by

displaying it at the Panchayat Headquarters. The guidelines have also been issued to keep the printed copies of the BPL list in the form of a booklet at the Panchayat Headquarters, paint the list of BPL families on the wall of the Panchayat building in the ascending order and also post the BPL list on the website. In order to redress the public grievances, a provision of two-stage appeal mechanism was also made so that people having any grievance with regard to their rank in the New BPL list, can file the first appeal with the Tehsildar or the SDM as the case may be and the second appeal with the Collector.

As per latest available reports, 14 States and UTs have finalized the New BPL list after getting it approved by the Gram Sabhas. In the remaining States and UTs, the finalization of New BPL list is in an advanced stage. The State-wise status is indicated in

Annexure-I.

After the vacation of the stay by the Hon`ble Supreme Court, getting the BPL lists approved by the Gram Sabhas and completion of two-stage appeal process took time in finalization of New BPL lists. The State Governments are reported to have received a large number of objections from the people and it took considerable time to dispose them. Therefore, it has resulted in delay in finalizing the New BPL lists.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.85 to be answered on 17.8.2007

State-wise status of BPL Census, 2002

S.No.	Name of the State	Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The score based house hold list approved by Gram Sabha is available in the booklet form in the districts.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	BPL list finalized in all respects.
3.	Assam	Survey completed and BPL list prepared and printed in most of districts. However, finalization is pending due to addition/deletion on account of appeals.
4.	Bihar	Cut off point has been decided as 13. The process of finalizing the list is in progress.
5.	Chhattisgarh	The BPL list has been finalized in all respects.
6.	Goa	The BPL list has been finalised.
7.	Gujarat	The BPL list has been finalized by 23 districts out of 25 districts.
8.	Haryana State	Govt. noticed a large scale irregularities in the BPL survey conducted in 2002. In view of the large scale complaints, entire survey has been scrapped. A fresh survey in all the villages has been started w.e.f. 1.3.2007. BPL list is expected to be drawn by August, 2007.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	All formalities completed in all GPs except in 5 GPs. The Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts have been instructed to get the issue resolved in a time bound manner.
10.	J & K	Work is in progress and completed shortly.
11.	Jharkhand	The BPL list has been finalized and displayed on the website.
12.	Karnataka	The BPL list has been finalized and displayed on the website.

13.	Kerala	The BPL list will be finalized by the middle of August, 2007.
14.	Madhya Pradesh	The BPL list has been finalized and displayed on the website.
15.	Maharashtra	The BPL list has been finalized.
16.	Manipur	Latest status still awaited.
17.	Meghalaya	Survey completed but the BPL list is yet to be finalised.
18.	Mizoram	The BPL list is reported to have been finalized but yet to be received in the Ministry.
19.	Nagaland	The BPL list has been finalized.
20.	Orissa	A Meeting of the High Power Committee is being convened to finalise the BPL list.
21.	Punjab	The BPL list has been finalized but it is yet to be displayed on the website.
22.	Rajasthan-	District-wise BPL list has been finalized and has been displayed on the website.The districts having variation of more 30% in the number of BPL families as compared to 1997 survey have been advised to recheck the position simultaneously.
23.	Sikkim	The BPL list has been prepared but is not displayed on the website.
24.	Tamil Nadu	The cut off score is 17. The BPL list will be finalized shortly.
25.	Tripura	The BPL list is yet to be finalised.
26.	Uttar Pradesh	The BPL list has been finalized and have been put on the website.
27.	Uttrakhand	The BPL list has been finalized.

28.	West Bengal	Conducted a fresh household survey in 2005.Draft BPL lists are reported to have been approved by the Gram Sabhas, Discussed with the State Govt. official,final results are expected by the end of August, 2007.
29.	Andaman	BPL list finalized.
30.	Daman & Diu	BPL list finalized.
31.	Lakshadweep	The BPL list has been published. The objections of the people are being looked into.

Annexure-II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 350

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2009

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SAXENA COMMITTEE

*350. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the socio-economic status of the poor communities was one of the terms of reference of the Saxena committee;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the committee, in brief, in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for implementation of those recommendations?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.350 due for answer on 14th December 2009.

(a) The socio-economic status of the poor communities was not one of the terms of reference of the Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census for 11th Five Year Plan. However, the Expert Group recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families based on some socio- economic indicators.

(b) The recommendation includes automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households. For automatic exclusion of rural households from the BPL list,the Expert Group recommended indicators such as ownership of land, ownership of motorized vehicles, ownership of mechanized farm equipment, regular employment and Income tax payers. The Expert Group recommended automatic inclusion of rural households from certain groups in the BPL list such as designated `Primitive Tribal Groups`, designated `Maha Dalit Groups`, single women headed households, households with disabled person as

bread-earner, households headed by a minor, households dependent on alms for survival, homeless households and households with bonded labourers. The Expert Group recommended that remaining households may be ranked on a scale of ten based on caste community, religion, occupation, educational status and age of head of Household. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development on 21st August 2009.

(c) The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the State Governments/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments. It has been posted on Ministry`s website at www.rural.nic.in. The Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of persons below the Poverty Line in rural areas, taking into account the suggestions/comments received.

Annexure-III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1770

ANSWERED ON 8.3.2010

CENSUS OF BPL FAMILIES

1770. SHRI KIRODI LAL MEENA
SHRI P. LINGAM
SHRI HARSH VARDHAN
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN
SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY
SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY
SHRI IJAIRAJ SINGH
SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of schemes formulated for upgradation of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there has been an increase in the number of such persons despite the said schemes in force;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the number of such persons brought above poverty line in each State during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the criteria adopted for inclusion of persons in the BPL list and the details of districts identified as poverty stricken, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the said criteria and to have a fresh census of BPL families;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the methodology to be adopted for the purpose;

(g) whether any directives have been issued to States for revising BPL list; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said census is likely to be conducted?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) for benefit of persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas of the country.

(b) & (c): The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO).

The two latest comparable estimates of poverty are available for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05, according to these, the number of people living below the poverty line for the country as a whole is estimated to have declined from 320.4 million (36% of the total population) in 1993-94 to 301.7 million (27.5% of the total population) in 2004-05. Accordingly it is estimated that the number of people living above the poverty line for the country as a whole increased from 570.3 million (64% of the total population) in 1993-94 to 795.4 million (72.5% of the total population) in 2004-05. The state-wise estimate of the number of people living below the poverty line in the country for 1993-94 and 2004-05 are at annexure-I&II.

(d) to (h): The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The Ministry of Rural Development, on 12th August, 2008, constituted an Expert Group, which could advise the Ministry on the methodology for conducting the BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan which was chaired by Dr. N.C. Saxena. The Expert Group submitted its report on 21st August 2009. The Expert Group recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families, which involves automatic

exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households. The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the States/UTs and the concerned Central Ministries for comments. It has also been posted on the Ministry`s website www.rural.nic.in. The Ministry of Rural Development is in the process of finalizing the methodology to carry out next BPL Census for identification of people living Below the Poverty Line in rural areas of the country, taking into account the suggestions/comments received.

Annexure-I referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1770 to be answered on 08.03.2010 ,

Number of persons living Below Poverty Line by States/UTs as per poverty estimates for 1993-94

SI. No.	States/UTs	No. of Persons (Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	153.97
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3.73
3	Assam	96.36
4	Bihar	493.36
5	Chhattisgarh	NA
6	Delhi	15.51
7	Goa	1.91
8	Gujarat	105.19
9	Haryana	43.88
10	Himachal Pradesh	15.86
11	Jainmu & Kashmir	20.92
12	Jharkhand	NA
13	Karnataka	156.45
14	Kerala	76.41

15	Madhya Pradesh	298.52
16	Maharashtra	305.22
17	Manipur	6.80
18	Meghalaya	7.38
19	Mizoram	1.94
20	Nagaland	5.05
21	Orissa	160.60
22	Punjab	25.11
23	Rajasthan	128.50
24	Sikkim	1.84
25	Tamil Nadu	202.10
26	Tripura	11.79
27	Uttar Pradesh	604.46
28	Uttarakhand	NA
29	West Bengal	254.56
30	A & N Islands	1.06
31	Chandigarh	0.80
32	Dadra & N. Haveli	0.77
33	Daman & Diu	0.18
34	Lakshadweep	0.14
35	Puducherry	3.31
	All-India	3203.68

Source:-Planning Commission

Notes:
1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Puducherry and A &N Islands.
3. Poverty ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
4. Poverty ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty ratio of Punjab is used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadrar & Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty ratio of HP is used for J& K for 1993-94.

Annexure-II referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1770 to be answered on 08.03.2010

Number of persons living Below Poverty Line by States/UTs as per poverty estimates for 04-05

(Based on URP-Consumption)

SI.No.	States/UTs	No. of Persons (Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	126.10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.03
3	Assam	55.77
4	Bihar	369.15
5	Chhattisgarh	90.96
6	Delhi	22.93
7	Goa	2.01
8	Gujarat	90.69

9	Haryana	32.10
10	Himachal Pradesh	6.36
11	Jammu & Kashmir	5.85
12	Jharkhand	116.39
13	Karnataka	138.89
14	Kerala	49.60
15	Madhya Pradesh	249.68
16	Maharashtra	317.38
17	Manipur	3.95
18	Meghalaya	4.52
19	Mizoram	1.18
20	Nagaland	3.99
21	Orissa	178.49
22	Punjab	21.63
23	Rajasthan	134.89
24	Sikkim	1.14
25	Tamil Nadu	145.62
26	Tripura	6.38
27	Uttar Pradesh	590.03
28	Uttarakhand	35.96
29	West Bengal	208.36
30	A & N Islands	0.92

31	Chandigarh	0.74
32	Dadra&N. Haveli	0.84
33	Daman & Diu	0.21
34	Lakshadweep	0.11
35	Puducherry	2.37
	All-India	3017.20

Source:-Planning Commission
URP consumption = Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-day recall period.
Notes:
1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Puducherry and A & N Island.
4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
6. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
7. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Annexure-IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3543

ANSWERED ON 16.8.2010

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS UNDER BPL LIST

3543. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is actively considering to bring all the agricultural labourers under BPL List;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN "ADITYA")

(a) to (c) : The methodology for BPL Census has not been finalized.

Annexure-V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 990
ANSWERED ON 15.11.2010
SURVEY FOR BPL POPULATION

990. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV
Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to review Below Poverty Line (BPL) category pupulation of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the survey for BPL population proposed to be undertaken; and

(d) the manner in which it is proposed to be carried out?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN "ADITYA")

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Rural Development, on 12-08-2008, constituted an Expert Group under chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena to advise on the suitable methodology for identification of BPL households. The Expert Group submitted its report on 21-08-2009. The report of the Expert Group was circulated among the State Governments/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments. The Ministry has also consulted various experts on the issue. Based on their suggestions pilot survey in 254 villages is being conducted to arrive at the methodology for the forthcoming BPL Census. In addition to the pilot survey through conventional questionnaire method, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique is also being conducted in the same 254 villages where household survey is conducted to corroborate the information received through the surveys. Methodology for the BPL Census will be finalized on the basis of outcome of pilot survey and taking in to account the suggestions/comments of States/UTs, Central Ministries and experts. It is expected that the BPL Census would be carried out in the first quarter of 2011-12.

[vi] SCANNING AND UPLOADING OF WRITTEN MATERIAL ON COMPUTERS

On 3 March, 2008 Shri Ramdas Athawale, M.P, addressed an Unstarred Question No. 610 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology within three months from the date of the reply. However, the transfer of the assurance was accepted by the Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. F.1-1/2008-Lib dated 17 July, 2008. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought last extension of time to implement the assurance upto 2.9.2010. Further, the Ministry have sought extension of time till the decision to drop the assurance is taken by the Committee.

3. The Ministry of Culture vide O.M. No. 1-1/2008-Lib. dated 8 September, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the assurance relates to the details of development of modern libraries across the country which comes under the proposed National Commission on Libraries in the Ministry of Culture as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission.
>
> In connection with setting up of the National Commission on Libraries, it may be mentioned that the Planning Commission had already given "in-principle approval" for the proposal. The document on the proposed Commission was submitted to Committee of Secretaries (COS) for necessary approval. In the meeting of COS, the following decisions have been taken:-
>
> (i) Libraries are required to be developed at all levels and to achieve this, a new Mission may be required; however, constitution of

National Commission on Libraries does not appear to be necessary at this stage. Digitization and Networking would enhance public acess to the Libraries. It is therefore observed that the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata could function as a coordinating body for promotion of Libraries and further strengthening of the foundation may be necessitated at later stage.

(ii) A group, consisting of representatives from D/o Higher Education, M/o Panchayati Raj, D/o School Education & Literacy and M/o Culture may prepare an action plan on what can be done in the next couple of years for promotion of libraries at all levels. The proposal for a National Commission on Libraries can be considered at a later stage as part of the deliberations of the 12th Five Year Plan Working Group."

4. In this connection it is submitted that similar assurances given in reply to Starred Question No. 193 dated 10 March, 2010 regarding 'Improvement of Public Libraries' and Unstarred Question No. 2051 dated 10 March, 2010 regarding 'Setting up of Central Library Fund' were dropped by the Committee at their sitting held on 21 July, 2011.

5. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Culture, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 610

ANSWERED ON 03.03.2008

SCANNING AND UPLOADING OF WRITTEN MATERIAL ON COMPUTERS

610. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of Communications and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has proposed to formulate a scheme to scan and upload on computers the books and other valuable written material of various universities, IITs, research centres, libraries of Archives and other centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the scheme as on date; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d): Government recognizes the need for provision for secure data and resource sharing among the knowledge institutions.

Further, Ministry of Culture has initiated a proposal to set up a National Mission on Libraries. Digitization of old and rare books and manuscripts available with public libraries is one of the activities to be undertaken by this Mission. The Planning Commission has given in principle approval for the National Mission on Libraries. This mission will be set up as soon as necessary approvals are accorded.

[vii] CONSTRUCTION OF 4-LANE ROAD BETWEEN JALANDHAR BY-PASS TO DHILWAN-AMRITSAR

On 7 July, 2009 Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 362 to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 7 April, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide O. M. No. NH-11016/43/2009/PB/NH-1 dated 27 April, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the assurance under reference has not been fulfilled because the proposal for 4-laning of Jalandhar Amritsar section of NH-1 from KM. 387.100 to KM. 407.100 on BOT (Toll) by including the stretch with any adjoining stretch under implementation, on nomination basis was considered and recommended for approval by SFC to the Committee comprising of Secretary (Finance) and Secretary (RT&H). The Committee had advised to bring forth a proposal for consideration of the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for final decision thereupon. In the meantime, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has reviewed the project and the technical consultant has been requested to revise the DPR with respect to the updation of traffic scenario and addition of Kartarpur town flyover v/s bypass. The PPPAC proposal including cost updation and revised financial analysis will be submitted after updation of the DPR. It will take much more time."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (Road Transport and Highways), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 362

ANSWERED ON 7.07.2009

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR LANE ROAD BETWEEN JALANDHAR BY-PASS TO DHILWAN-AMRITSAR

362. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA

Will the Minister of Road Transport and Highways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received representation regarding construction of four lane road between Jalandhar Bye-Pass to Dhilwan–Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir,the Government of Punjab had requested for expediting the work of 4 laning of National Highway-1 from Jalandhar bypass to Dhilwan-Amritsar.
(c) The status of 4-laning of Jalandhar –Amritsar section of NH-1 from km 387.100 to 456.100 is as under: -

1. Jalandhar bypass to Dhilwan section from km 387.100 to km 407.100:
The proposal for 4-laning of this stretch was considered by the Standing Finance Committee of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highway in its meeting held on 21.01.2009 and it has granted approval to the project proposal with the condition that
(i) NHAI may explore the possibility of including this stretch with either of the two adjoining stretches on BOT toll basis within the provision of change of scope with their respective Concession Agreement and
(ii) In case it is not feasible to include the stretch with either of adjoining stretch NHAI may propose for change of mode of implementation for taking the project on EPC mode with proper justification. Modified proposal is under finalization.

2. Dhilwan-Amritsar section of NH-1 from km 407.100 to 456.100:
The 4-laning of this stretch is in progress on BOT basis with physical progress of 87.5% and is likely to be completed by September 2009.

[viii] TRAUMA CENTRES ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

On 15 July, 2009 Shri G.M. Siddeshwara and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 1592 to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 30 June, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide O. M. No. H.11016/14/2009-H/MH-III dated 28 June, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the gravity and magnitude of road transport accident is an area of concern and emerging as a public health problem accounting for 1.18 lakhs deaths, 4.69 lakhs injuries as per National Crime Record Bureau-2008 data. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing the Scheme "Establishment of Trauma Care facilities on National highways covering Golden Quadrilateral, North-South & East-West Corridors during the 11th Plan period" at a total outlay of Rs. 732.75 Crores.

140 Government hospitals located on the above mentioned Corridors have been identified to strengthen such facilities. Funds have been/are being provided to these hospitals after inspection and signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the respective State Governments in phased manner, for construction, deployment of manpower, procurement of equipments, establishment of communication network and facilities for legal matters depending upon the level of the trauma care centre.

Various processes are involved before operationalisation of the Trauma Centre such as finalization of Building Plan of Trauma Centre for construction, getting it approved, actual start and completion of construction, ordering and installation of equipments, etc. The second installment is released only after receipt of Utilization Certificate (UC) from the institution/State Government as per the laid down procedure under GFR.

This Ministry is requesting the State Government concerned from time to time, for expeditious utilization of funds, submission of UC alongwith SOE and also to furnish status report in order to release further grants. Further designated nodal officers of the Ministry have been visiting the Government hospitals concerned, to assess the progress made in establishing the trauma care facility at regular intervals.

By and large, based on the reports, it has been found that the progress made so far is not satisfactory specifically in construction activities which is taking time ranging from 2-3 years. This has resulted into late submission of UC and delays in releasing of further grants. As the funds are provided in a phased manner i.e., for construction in the Ist installment and in second phase for equipment, communication, manpower & legal assistance. The procurement of equipment is also a time consuming process. Hence, operationalisation of Trauma Centre is delayed. As on date, out of 113 Government hospitals for which funds were sanctioned, only in 16 Hospitals Trauma Care facilities are partially available/functional.

For the remaining period of the 11th Five Year Plan i.e. during the Annual Plan 2001-12, an amount of Rs. 100 cores (including Rs. 12 crores for North-East region) have been provided. These funds will be released to the Institutions, depending upon the submission of utilization of previous grants as per the provisions of the GFR and based on the progress report for different approved components.

These activities are ongoing in nature. In view of above explanation, it may not be possible to definitely identify a date for initiating of functioning of all Trauma Centres. It is, therefore, requested that the assurance may please be dropped."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (Health and Family Welfare), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1592
ANSWERED ON 15.7.2009

TRAUMA CENTRES ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

1592. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:-

(a) whether a large number of road accident victims die for want of immediate medical aid;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of Trauma Centres set up in the country along the National Highways, State-wise and location-wise;
(d) whether the existing Trauma Centres set up are adequate;
(e) if not, whether the Government proposes to set up more Trauma Centres in the country;
(f) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the purpose; and
(g) the time by which these centres are likely to start functioning?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (g):As per the report of Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, during the Calendar Year 2007, 479216 number of accidents were reported; 513340 persons were injured and 114444 died due to road traffic accidents in the country. To address this problem, a revised scheme namely `Project for establishment of trauma care facilities along National Highways` during the 11th Five Year Plan` has been envisaged to develop a network of Trauma centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors of the National Highways to help the accident victims. The project envisages the availability of the life support ambulances every 50 Km along with the National Highways. It also provides for three categories of Trauma centres, viz, L-I, L-II and L-III. The trauma care network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transferred for more than 50 Km. and a designated trauma centre is available at every 100 Km.
The centres which were provided financial assistance so far for establishment of Trauma Care Centres during the lllh Five Year Plan is annexed. <u>These centres are under various stages of progress.</u>

List of Trauma Centres sanctioned:

State	SI. No.	Name of Hospital/Medical Institution.
Gujarat	1	District Hospital, Himmatnagar (L-III)
	2	General Hospital, Valsad (L-II)
	3	Govt. Medical College, Surat (L-II)
	4	Distt. Hospital, Bharuch (L-III)
	5	Govt. Medical College, Vadodara (L-II)
	6	Pt. Deen Dayal Upathayaya Hospital, Rajkot (L-II)
	7	General Hospital, Morbi (L-II)
	8	Civil Hospital, Radhanpur (L-III)
	9	Sahyog Arogya Hospital, Bachau, Kutchh (L-III)
	10	General Hospital, Porbundar (L-II)
	11	CHC, Jetpur (L-III)
Tamil Nadu	12	Krishnagiri Govt. Hospital, Dharampuri (L-III)
	13	Govt. Medical College & Civil Hospital, Vellore (L-II)
	14	Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital, Vellore (L-II)
	15	District Hqrs. Hospital, Dindigul (L-II)
	16	Govt. Medical College Hospital, Kanyakumari (L-II)
	17	Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli (L-II)
	18	District Hqrs. Hospital, Karur (L-III)
	19	District Hqrs. Hospital, Kovilpatti (L-III)
	20	Govt. Rajaji Hospital & Medical College, Madurai (L-II)
Andhra Pradesh	21	Nayadupet Taluk Hospital, Nellore(L-III)

	22	Medical College, Guntur (L-II)
	23	Tuni Taluk Hospital, East Godavari, (L-III)
	24.	Taluk Hospital, Tekkali (L-III)
	25.	Distt. Hospital, Nellore (L-II)
	26.	Distt. Hospital, Ongole (L-III)
	27.	Andhra Medical College, Vishakhapatnam (King George Medical College) (L-II)
	28.	Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad (L-II)
	29.	Area Hospital, Kamareddy (L-III)
	30.	District Hqrs Hospital, Nizamabad (L-II)
	31.	Government General Hospital, Kurnool (L-II)
	32.	Government General Hospital, Anantapur (L-II)
	33.	Government District Hospital, Mehboobnagar (L-III)
	34.	Community Hospital, Penukonda (L-III)
Karnataka	35.	Tumkur Distt. Hospital, Tumkur (L-III)
	36.	Sira CHC/Taluk Hospital, Sira (L-III)
	37	Chitradurga Civil Hospital, Chitradurga (L-U)
	38.	Devangere Civil hospital, Devangere (L-III)
	39.	Haveri Distt. Hospfital, Haveri (L-III)
	40.	Belgaum Distt. Hospital, Belgaum (L-III)
	41.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli (L-II)
	42.	General Hospital, Chickballapur (L-III)
Punjab	43.	District Hospital, Jalandhar (L-II)
Maharashtra	44.	Government Medical College Hospital, Kolhapur, (L-II)
	45.	B.J. Medical College, Pune, (L-II)
	46.	Satara Distt. Hospital, Satara, (L-III)

	47.	Govt. Medical College Hospital, Nagpur (L-II)
	48.	Sub-District Hospital, Hinganghat, Wardha (L-II)
	49.	Sub-District Hospital, Dahanu District, Thane (L-III)
Orissa	50.	District Hospital, Balasore, (Level -II)
	51.	District Hospital, Bhadrak, (Level -III)
	52.	District Hospital, Khurda, (Level -III)
	53	SCB Medical College, Cuttack (Level -I)
Haryana	54.	BSS General Hospital, Panipat (L-III)
Uttar Pradesh	55.	MLN Medical College, Allahabad (L-II)
	56.	BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur (L-II)
	57.	District Hospital, Lalitpur (L-II)
	58.	District Hospital, Jalaun (L-III)
	59.	MLB Medical College, Jhansi (L-II)
	60.	Shri Bhimrao Ambedkar Distt. Hospital, Etawah (L-III)
	61.	SN Medical College, Agra (L-II)
	6 2 .	LLR Hospital & GSVM Medical College, Kanpur
	63.	District Hospital, Faizabad (L-III)
	64.	District Hospital, Basti (L-III)
	65.	District Hospital, Fatehpur (L-III)
West Bengal	66.	Burdwan Medical College & Hospital, Burdwan (L-II).
	67.	Sub-Divisional Hospital, Asansol (L-II)
	68.	North Bengal Medical College & Hospital, Siliguri (L-II)
	69.	Islampur S.D. Hospital, Uttar Dinajpur (L-III)
Rajasthan	70.	Taluka Hospital, Kotputli (L-III)
	71.	SMS Medical College, Jaipur (L-II)

	72.	JLN Medical College, Ajmer (L-II)
	73.	District Hospital, Bhilwara (L-III)

	74.	RNT Medical College. Udaipur (L-II)
	75.	Civil Hospital, Dungarpur (L-III)
	76.	Govt. Hospital, Sirohi (L-HI)
	77.	Govt. Hospital, Baran (L-III)
	78.	Shri Sanwaliya Hospital, Chittorgarh (L-III)
	79.	New Medical College Hospital, Kota (L-II)
Jammu and Kashmir	80.	Govt. District Hospital, Udhampur (L-II)
	81.	Mirza Mohammed Afzalbeg Memorial District Hospital, Anantnag (L-III)
Assam	82.	Medical College & Hospital, Silchar (L-II)
	83.	Civil Hospital, Haflong (L-III)
	84.	Civil Hospital, Diphu (L-III)
	85.	District Hospital, Nagoan (L-II)
	86.	Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati (L-II)
	87.	Civil Hospital, Bongaigoan (L-III)
Bihar	88.	Sadar Hospital, Sasaram, Rohtas (L-III)
	89.	AN Magadh Medical College Hospital, Gaya (L-II)
	90.	Sadar Hospital, Kishanganj (L-III)
	91.	Sadar Hospital, Purnia (L-II)
	92.	Sadar Hospital, Madhepura (L-III)
	93.	Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Darbhanga (L-II)
	94.	S.K. Medical College Hospital, Muzaffarpur (L-II)
	95.	Sadar Hospital, Gopalgunj (L-III)
	96.	Sub- Divisional Hospital Jhanjarpur (L-III)

[ix] HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES OF CROPS

On 15 December, 2009 S/Shri Ram Sundar Das and Bhisma Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4033 to the Minister of Agriculture. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture vide O.M. No. 1-21/2009-Seed dated 28 June, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the reply to parts (c) to (e) of the question which is treated as an assurance, was prepared on the basis of information provided by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The assurance is pending on the part of DARE/ICAR owing to the fact that response from DBT remains awaited.
>
> Meanwhile, efforts have been made to obtain the required information from DBT being the Nodal Agency for all matters related to National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA). However, the DBT has informed that no time frame can be given at this stage for the establishment of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. Therefore, it is requested to consider for dropping of this assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Agriculture, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4033

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2009

HIGH YEILDING VARIETIES OF CROPS

4033. SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS
SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:-

(a) whether adequate funds are made available to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Agricultural Universities for the research and development works on high yielding varieties of crops;

(b) if so, the funds allocated and utilised during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has explored the potential of promoting public-private partnership in the field of biotechnology to achieve constant growth in the agriculture sector, if so, the steps taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to create a special venture fund and develop a proper regulatory system to promote research in biotechnology and high yielding varieties of crops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)
(a) Yes, Madam.
(b) The allocation for 2007-08 is Rs.310.52 crores, 2008-09 is Rs.383.50 crores and 2009-10 is Rs.394 crores. The expenditure for 2007-08 is Rs.317.58 crores, 2008-09 is Rs.377.24 crores and 2009-10 is 167.64 crores (up to September).

(c),(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) had launched public-private partnerships programme namely Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) since 2007-08 to provide support as grants and loans to small and medium companies, for pre-proof-of-concept research in biotechnology to accelerate the commercialization of biotechnologies in the healthcare, food and nutrition, agriculture and other sectors.

In the year 2007-08, a new scheme Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) has been also approved by DBT for implementation in partnership with Industries for public support on a cost sharing basis. The scheme also considers projects in agriculture biotechnology particularly with reference to path-breaking research in frontier, futuristic technology areas having major economic potential and making Indian industry globally competitive.

The Government of India is in the process of setting up of a regulatory authority for biotechnology, product and processes. the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology is the nodal agency to establish `National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority` (NBRA) through an act of parliament. Accordingly, a consultative group of experts have prepared draft establishment plan of NBRA and the proposed Bill is in process for consideration of the Cabinet and Parliament.

[x] QUALITY OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

On 28 April, 2010 Dr. Nilesh N. Rane, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 5408 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry has sought extension of time upto 28 April, 2012 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) vide O.M. No. 7-35/2010-TS.II dated 14 December, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That the above assurance relates to the scheme of expansion and modernization of 200 State Engineering Institutions. In order to implement the above scheme, the Department of Higher Education prepared a note for Expenditure Finance Committee and *inter alia* circulated to Department of Expenditure and Planning Commission for their concurrence. Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure has, however, suggested that the above scheme be included in the XII Five Year Plan. In view of the above, the above assurance is redundant."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State (HRD), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5408

ANSWERED ON 28.04.2010

QUALITY OF ENGINEERING EDUCAITON

5408. DR. NILESH N. RANE

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:-
(a) whether the Union Government proposes to improve the quality of engineering education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any requests from the State Governments particularly from Maharashtra for allocation of funds for upgradation of engineering colleges in their States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)
(a): Yes, Sir.
(b): The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has various schemes for improvement of quality of engineering education in the country, namely, Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) scheme for improvement of faculty for Diploma & Degree level institutions and the Research Promotion Scheme(RPS) for promoting research in the field of engineering. Moreover, the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) has been set-up to regulate and monitor the quality of engineering education in the country through a revised accreditation system which is outcome based.
(c) & (d): Eight proposals have been received from the State Government of Maharashtra under the scheme for upgradation of engineering colleges. The process of formulation of the scheme and determination of the criteria for selection has been initiated.

[xi] PROBE OF FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES BY BUREAUCRATS

On 5 May, 2010 S/Shri Gadhvi Mukesh Bhairavadanji, J.M. Aaron Rashid & Shripad Yesso Naik, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 6481 to the Prime Minister. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) vide O.M. No. 361/30/2010-AVD-III dated 25 August, 2010 had requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That it will be appreciated that the Committee's work of scrutinizing the complaints and making appropriate recommendations for further investigation or otherwise to the Disciplinary Authority is not a onetime activity but it is a continuing process and hence action on such complaints cannot be completed in one go. Therefore, if such matters are treated as assurance, it will not be possible for this Ministry to fulfill them at any point of time."

4. The above request of the Ministry was considered by the Committee at its sitting held on 12 January, 2011 and decided not to drop the assurance. Accordingly, the Committee presented its 13th Report (15th Lok Sabha) to the House on 22 March, 2011 wherein the Committee desired that a status indicating the details of complaints received and appropriate action taken during last one year be furnished to the Committee.

5. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) vide O.M. No. 361/30/2010-AVD-III dated 23 November, 2011 have again requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

> "That as this Ministry had simply quoted the contents of Department of Public Enterprises' OM dated 11 March, 2010 for answering the question, the Committee on Government Assurances was requested vide OM of even number dated 25 August, 2010 to delete this assurance. The Committee, vide its 13th Report dated 22 March, 2011 has desired that a status indicating the details of complaints received and appropriate action taken during last one year be furnished to them. Accordingly, Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat was requested to furnish the requisite information.
>
> The Cabinet Secretariat has intimated that during the period from 11.3.2010 to 31.3.2011 i.e. one year since the constitution of the Group, vide DPE OM dated 11.3.2010 to take a view on complaints against Chief Executive and Functional Directors of PSEs and CMDs and Functional Directors of Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions, the Group received 153 complaints against various officers. Out of these, final decision has been taken in respect of 70 complaints so far. The remaining 83 complaints are under examination."

6. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6481

ANSWERED ON 05.05.2010

PROBE OF FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES BY BUREAUCRATS

6481. SHRI GADHVI MUKESH BHAIRAVADANJI
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK

Will the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has proposed to probe financial bungling of Chairpersons, Managing Directors and Directors of PSUs including Co-operative Banks by the Committee of Bureaucrats instead of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a move of the Government is direct violations of the law governing the CVC/CBI and their jurisdictions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said Committee could be given powers equal to the CVC; and

(f) if not, the manner in which the Committee would execute its authority of probing the case of financial irregularities?

ANSWER

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b): The Department of Public Enterprises have issued an Office Memorandum (OM) on 11.3.2010 and an amendment thereto on 12.4.2010, outlining a procedure for handling complaints against Chief Executives and Functional Directors of the Public Sector Enterprises, Banks and Financial Institutions. A Group has been constituted, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat with Secretary (Department of Public Enterprises) Secretary (CVC) and Additional Secretary (Department of Financial Services) as Members, to take a view on such complaints.

(c) to (f): The said OM was neither intended to, and nor it does, intrude upon the authority of CVC as it is not possible for an executive instruction to attempt to prevail over legislative provisions. The CVC enjoys a statutory status and has statutory provisions available under CVC Act, 2003 to cause an investigation and recommend suitable action to the concerned Ministry.

The said committee would only scrutinize the complaints and make appropriate recommendation for further investigation or otherwise to the Disciplinary Authority.

[xii] CORRUPTION IN AICTE

On 24 November, 2010 Kumari Meenakshi Natarajan, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2386 to the Minister of Human Resource Development. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to parts (a) & (b) of the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development within three months from the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time to implement the assurance upto 24.09.2011.

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development vide O.M. No. 7-75/2010-TS.II dated 26 August, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That this Ministry has referred the matters to the CBI. The CBI have registered cases and have their own procedure and could take some more time in finlaising the cases. The Ministry has done whatever was required in the cases. It may, therefore, not be appropriate to keep the assurance pending in name of this Ministry."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State (HRD), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2386

ANSWERED ON 24.11.2010

CORRUPTION IN AICTE

2386. KUMARI MEENAKSHI NATARAJAN

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken action against the Chairman, Members and other officials of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on charges of corruption in the recent past;

(b) if so, the status of the enquiry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for fair working of the AICTE and to safe guard the interests of the students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered four cases against Prof. R.A. Yadav, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) (under suspension) and 14 cases against other officials of AICTE. Charge sheet is being issued against the Prof. R.A. Yadav and others in respect of Echelon Institute of Technology. In all other cases, the investigation by CBI is underway.

(c): AICTE has introduced e-governance approval process for greater transparency, easier assured communication, fast processing and facility for tracking of application by the applicant. Emphasis is being laid on self declaration through e-governance process by institutions rather than inspection. Database of countrywide experts is created and the experts are selected randomly by computer, thus avoiding manual/human intervention in the constitution of the expert committees. Composition of Expert Committees at different stages of approval process has been modified incorporating eminent educationalists. Practicing advocates and architects have also been included as members of the Committee to verify legal and building related documents.

[xiii] SPORT SPECIFIC ACADEMIES

On 25 November, 2010 Shri S.S. Ramasubbu, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2692 to the Minister of Railways. The contents of the question along with the reply of the Minister are as given in Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months of the date of the reply but the assurance is yet to be implemented.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. 2010/E(SPORTS)/8/1/9/LS dated 3 March, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That setting up of Academies depends upon a number of variables and it is difficult to predict a precise time frame for all these academies in a unified manner. All efforts and measures are being taken to complete these at the earliest."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Railways, have requested to drop the above assurance.

5. In this connection it is submitted that the above assurance was partly implemented vide Statement IV, item No. 42 on 22 March, 2012 (copy enclosed).

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2692

ANSWERED ON 25.11.2010

SPORT SPECIFIC ACADEMIES

2692. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up Sport Specific Academies in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details along with the locations identified for setting up of the same; and

(c) the time by which the new Sports Academies are likely to be set up?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): It is proposed to set up Sports Academies in five major cities i.e. Delhi, Secunderabad, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

(c): It has been planned to set up these academies in phases, time lines of which are under finalization.

VI Session, of XV Lok Sabha

Ministry of Railways Date of Fulfilment: 16.02.2012

Q. No. Date & Name of M.P(s).	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 2692 dated 25.11.2010 by Shri S.S. Ramasubbu	SPORTS SPECIFIC ACADEMIES Asking for:- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up Sport Specific Academies in various parts of the country; (b) if so, the details alongwith the locations identified for setting up of the same; and (c) the time by which the new Sports Academies are likely to be set up?	(c) : It has been planned to set up these academies in phases, time lines of which are under finalization.	(c): New Sports Academies are likely to be set up during 2013-14, subject to availability of resources and terms and conditions followed by the Sports Academies Development Agencies.	Time has been taken to finalise the plan.

[xiv] INTERCEPTION OF MOBILE CALLS

On 6 December, 2010 S/Shri Dharmendra Yadav and Dushyant Singh, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 4174 to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and was required to be implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry has sought extension of time upto 05 December, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications) vide O.M. No. 7-13/2010-S-II dated 4 March, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That it is a policy matter that requires inter-ministerial consultation and further examination by Ministry of Law and Justice before it is placed before the Parliament for approval. The completion of whole process may take considerable time. Since the action has already been initiated to enhance the penalty by amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, assurance may be considered to be fulfilled."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (P), have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4174

ANSWERED ON 6.12.2010

INTERCEPTION OF MOBILE CALLS

4174. SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH

Will the Minister of Communications and Information Technology be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the parallel system of recording calls through off-the-air GSM technology has been working as a form of illegal and passive mode of interception in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the users of cell phones have the risk of calls illegally tapped through off-the-air GSM technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) & (b) Madam, technical equipments are available in the international market to intercept the GSM communication off-the-air passively.

(c) & (d) The above equipment could be used illegally to tap the communication through this technology.

(e) Considering the danger of illegal tapping of communication off-the-air, Government has taken the following steps:-

(i) The equipments which could be used to tap the communication off-the-air have been moved to 'Restrictive List' from the 'Open General License (OGL)' list.

(ii) The Government is considering to increase financial penalty upto Rs. 2 Crore for unlawful interception by amending Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

(iii) A Public Notice is also being issued to create awareness that keeping such equipment is against the provision of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and is liable to be punished with imprisonment for the term which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both.

[xv] ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN JUDICIARY

On 3 March, 2011 S/Shri Takam Sanjoy and Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, M.Ps., addressed a Starred Question No. 108 to the Minister of Law and Justice. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Law and Justice within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought any extension of time upto 3 December, 2011 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Law and Justice vide O.M. No. K-15016/5/2011-US.II dated 24 November, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That as per the provisions of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, a Committee was constituted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for the purpose of making an investigation into the allegations against Shri Justice P.D. Dinakaran. Shri Justice Dinakaran resigned from his office on 29.07.2011 while the Committee was examining the issue. As regards the case registered by the CBI in 2008 at Chandigarh in which the role of a sitting Judge was being investigated, the concerned Judge has since retired on 03.03.2011."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Law and Justice, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 108
ANSWERED ON 03.03.2011

ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN JUDICIARY

*108. SHRI TAKAM SNAJOY
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:-
(a) whether certain judges are under investigation on charges of alleged corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to evolve a mechanism for inquiring into complaints against Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any judicial standards are proposed to be laid down for the Judges;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken for elimination of corruption in judiciary?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 108 for answer on 03.03.2011

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha constituted two Committees to look into the allegations of misconduct regarding Shri Justice Soumitra Sen and Shri Justice P.D. Dinakaran.

The Committee, headed by Shri Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy, Judge, Supreme Court, had been constituted to look into the charges levelled against Shri Justice Soumitra Sen, Judge, Calcutta High Court and has submitted its report to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

Another Committee headed by Shri Justice Aftab Alam, Judge, Supreme Court, had been constituted to look into the allegation against Shri Justice P.D. Dinakaran. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

The CBI has registered a case No. RCAC2 of 2008 at Chandigarh in the Court of the Special Judge, CBI in which the role of a sitting Judge of a High Court is being investigated.

To ensure greater accountability and transparency in the higher judiciary, a Bill titled 'The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010' which incorporates a mechanism for enquiring into complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, enabling declaration of assets and liabilities of Judges and laying down judicial standards to be followed by the Judges has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010.

[xvi] EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

On 10 March, 2011 Shri E.G. Sugavanam, M.P., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 2483 to the Minister of Railways. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Railways within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have not sought any extension of time to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Railways vide O.M. No. E(W)2011/LG-III/4 dated 24 November, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That as per Constitutional Scheme the provision of educational facilities is the responsibility of Ministry of Human Resource Development or of State Governments. Ministry of Railways has set up educational institutions purely as a staff welfare measure to fulfill the educational needs of wards of Railway employees especially at locations where educational facilities by other agencies namely Centre/State/Private are inadequate or totally non-existent resulting in hardship to Railway employees. With the passage of time, there has been development of education facilities all over the country and the present approach of Ministry of Railways is to encourage establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Railway habitations for the benefit of Railway wards.

Ministry of Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Human Resource Development for development of educational facilities on Railways including 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Civil Sector in 11th and 12th Five Year Plan Periods. As of now Ministry of Human Resource Development has sanctioned 07 Kendriya Vidyalayas namely Carriage Repair Workshop, Harnaut (Bihar), Cast Wheel Plant, Bela (Bihar), Railway Campus, Nanded (Maharashtra), Railway Campus, Rangiya (Assam), Railway Colony, Dahod (Gujarat), Krishnarajapuram Diesel Loco Shed Colony, Bangalore (Karnataka) and at Railway Campus, Shakurbasti (New Delhi). The Ministry of Railways is in the process of identifying land for setting up of Polytechnics at Varanasi, Machlandpur, Vadodara, Bhilai and Hubli-Dharwad. Ministry of Human Resource Development has been approached to suggest appropriate model of financing and setting up these polytechnics. The position on the above lines as it existed on relevant date was conveyed in reply to the aforementioned Unstarred Question No.2483 by Shri E.G. Sugavanam, MP. It was further replied that a High Powered Working Group has been constituted consisting of senior officers of both the Ministries as a mechanism to further implement the objectives of the MoU.

In the aforesaid Question No.2483 in parts (b) & (c), Shri E.G. Sugavanam, Hon'ble MP had asked for the details of locations State-wise and time period for setting up educational institutional by the Ministry of Railways. As may be appreciated setting up of educational institutions requires lot of spade work including planning, arranging finances, creating physical infrastructure and obtaining legal/statutory permissions wherever required. It is learnt that Ministry of Human Resource Development has called for feasibility report from Regional Officers/Field Offices of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghathan (KVS) in respect of locations suggested by Ministry of Railways for setting up Kendriya Vidyalayas. Norms for setting up Polytechnics under Public Private Partnership are under discussion with Ministry of Human Resource Development. Discussions have also been held to find out modalities for setting up Navodaya type residential schools on the Railways. Considering the aforesaid scenario, it is not feasible to confirm at this stage the locations across the country where education institutions would be finally set up by Ministry of Railways under the MoU with Ministry of Human Resource Development nor it is feasible to specify any time limit by which they would be set up as asked by the Hon'ble MP. Even otherwise the process may continue till 2017 i.e. the end of 12th Plan as envisaged in the MoU.

It is therefore requested that above facts may kindly be placed before the Committee on Government Assurances and a request may be made not to take the reply given by Ministry of Railways as an assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Minister of Railways,

have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2483

ANSWERED ON 10.3.2011

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

2483. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up various educational institutions like Central Schools, Model Colleges and ITIs, etc. in its vacant lands across the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith locations identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Human Resource Development for development of educational facilities on Railways including 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in Civil Sector in 11th and 12th Five year plan periods. So far, six Kendriya Vidyalayas respectively at Carriage Repair Workshop Harnaut (Bihar), Cast Wheel Plant, Bela (Bihar), Railway Campus Nanded (Maharashtra), Railway Campus Rangiya (Assam), Freeland Ganj Railway Colony Dahod (Gujarat) and Krishnarajapuram Diesel Loco Shed Colony Bangalore (Karnataka) have been sanctioned. It is proposed to set up five Polytechnics namely at Varanasi, Machlandpur, Vadodara, Bhilai and Hubli-Dharwad. A High Powered Working Group is engaged in the process of identifying and developing suitable proposals for setting up of educational institutions on Railway premises.

[xvii] INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

On 1 August, 2011 Shrimati Deepa Dasmunsi, S/Shri Mahabal Mishra and Jose K. Mani, M.Ps., addressed an Unstarred Question No. 229 to the Minister of Defence. The text of the question alongwith the reply of the Minister are as given in the Annexure.

2. The reply to the question was treated as an assurance by the Committee and required to be implemented by the Ministry of Defence within three months from the date of the reply. The assurance is yet to be implemented. The Ministry have sought extension of time upto 30 April, 2012 to fulfill the assurance.

3. The Ministry of Defence vide O.M. No. 12(44)/2011/D(N-I) dated 12 December, 2011 have requested to drop the assurance on the following grounds:-

"That the defence acquisition is a continuous process undertaken in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure. Accordingly, contracts have been concluded with the Russian side for repair and re-equiping of the aircraft carrier, Vikramaditya, which is scheduled for delivery in December, 2012. Regarding the Air Defence Ship being constructed at CSL, Kochi, the ship is expected to be launched in December, 2011. Balance phases of work for completing the ship upto delivery are being discussed with the shipyard.

With reference to an assurance of similar nature pertaining to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3132 dated 8 December, 2010 regarding 'Protection of Indian Ocean Region' answered in the Rajya Sabha by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide their O.M. No. RS.1/221/280/2010-Com.III dated 18 March, 2011 had intimated that it has been decided not to treat the reply to the Question as assurance and consequently the above assurance has been deleted from the list of pending assurances.

Since the nature of assurance pertaining to Lok Sabha USQ No. 229 dated 1 August, 2011 is the same as that of Rajya Sabha USQ No. 3132 dated 8 December, 2010, the Committee on Government Assurance of Lok Sabha is requested not to treat the reply pertaining to Lok Sabha USQ No. 229 dated 1 August, 2011 as an assurance."

4. In view of the above, the Ministry, with the approval of the Raksha Mantri, have requested to drop the above assurance.

Annexure

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 229

ANSWERED ON 1.8.2011

INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

229. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI
SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA
SHRI JOSE K. MANI

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of aircraft carriers available with the Indian navy vis-à-vis its requirement at present;

(b) the current status of procurement of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya (ex Admiral Gorshkov) from Russia;

(c) the status of the indigenous project of manufacturing aircraft carrier named 'Air Defence Ship' being undertaken at the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi;

(d) whether the infrastructure/technology created/developed for the said indigenous project is likely to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) The Indian Navy (IN) has one Aircraft Carrier i.e. INS Viraat. To maintain effective presence in our area of interest, IN should be capable of deploying Carrier Task Forces in two geographically separated locations.
(b) The Refit and Modernisation works on board the Vikramaditya are progressing in an earnest manner. Consequent to signing of Supplementary Agreements in March, 2010, the Russian side has increased the manpower and material resources considerably for the Project.A majority of the equipment/systems have been installed on board the ship.The delivery of ship is scheduled in December, 2012.
(c) Regarding the 'Air Defence Ship' being constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), 75% of hull work has been completed and is expected to be launched in December 2011, after which further works will be undertaken prior to commissioning.
(d) & (e): Augmentation of infrastructure at CSL is underway. With the infrastructure and experience, Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-sized ships can be built at CSL. Additionally, Indian-manufactured warship quality steel is now available, which will reduce dependence on foreign countries.

Appendix-II
(Vide Para 4 & 5 of the Report)

MINUTES

EIGHTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2011-2012) held on 26 April, 2012 in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1600 hours on Thursday, 26 April, 2012.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Hansraj G. Ahir
3. Shri B.K. Handique
4. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
5. Shri Ramkishun
6. Shri Jagdanand Singh

Secretariat

1. Shri P. Sreedharan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri R.S. Kambo - Director
3. Shri T.S. Rangarajan - Additional Director

xx xx xx xx xx xx

At the outset the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members and apprised them about the agenda of the day. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration of Memoranda No. 2 to 41 containing requests received from various Ministries/Departments for dropping of the pending assurances. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to take appropriate decision on the requests. Accordingly, the Chairperson decided to drop 23 assurances and pursue 17 assurances as shown in Annexure-I & II.

2. xx xx xx xx xx xx

The Committee then adjourned.

Annexure-I

Details of Assurances <u>Dropped</u> by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 26.04.2012.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question No. /Discussion & Date	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2	(i) USQ No. 1000 dated 8.3.1996 (ii) USQ No. 773 dated 26.2.1999 (iii) USQ No. 3292 dated 17.3.1999 (iv) USQ No. 3093 dated 7.12.2001 (v) USQ No. 2163 dated 14.3.2008 (vi) USQ No. 1477 dated 18.11.2010	Finance	Benami Transactions Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act Suggestions from C.V.C. to fight Corruption Benami Transactions Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act Benami Transactions
2.	3	USQ No. 2721 dated 9.8.2001	Shipping	Repayment of Loan
3.	10	USQ No. 2899 Dated 19.3.2008	Road Transport & Highways	Amendment to National Highways Authority of India Act
4.	11	USQ No. 5222 Dated 30.4.2008	Health & Family Welfare	Setting up of Medical Parks
5.	12	USQ No. 1894 Dated 11.12.2008	Railways	EMUs Services

6.	13	USQ No. 578 Dated 24.2.2009	Human Resource Development	Madarsas
7.	16	SQ No. 304 Dated 24.7.2009 (Supplementary by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, M.P.)	Tourism	Roadmap for Development of Tourism
8.	17	USQ No. 400 Dated 20.11.2009	Finance	Income Tax Raids
9.	18	USQ No. 2765 Dated 7.12.2009	Social Justice & Empowerment	Reservation in Private Sector
10.	20	(i) USQ No. 4041 dated 15.12.2009 (ii) USQ No. 5151 Dated 27.4.2010	Consumer Affiars, Food & Public Distribution	Increase in CIP Hike in PDS Prices
11.	21	USQ No. 4361 Dated 16.12.2009	External Affairs	Irregularities in Lucknow Passport Office
12.	22	General Discussion dated 16.3.2010 by Shri Sandeep Dixit, MP	Environment and Forests	National Green Tribunal Bill
13.	23	USQ No. 2128 dated 10.3.2010	External Affairs	Look East Policy
14.	25	USQ No. 5962 dated 3.5.2010	Commerce and Industry	National Institute of Design

15.	27	SQ No. 602 dated 7.5.2010 (Supplementary by Shri Dara Singh Chauhan, MP)	Power	Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana
16.	28	USQ No. 5204 dated 27.8.2010	Power	Super Thermal Power Plant
17.	29	USQ No. 461 dated 11.11.2010	Steel	Renewal of Mining Leases
18.	32	USQ No. 2807 dated 26.11.2010	Power	Indian Power Debt Fund
19.	33	USQ No. 2860 dated 26.11.2010	Finance	Change in International Monetary Fund
20.	34	USQ No. 3559 dated 1.12.2010	Human Resource Development	National Education Finance Corporation
21.	36	USQ No. 1 dated 22.2.2011	Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation	Basic Amenities in Slum Areas
22.	37	General Discussion dated 24.2.2011	Finance	Black Money
23.	41	USQ No. 307 dated 2.8.2011	Urban Development	Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies

Annexure-II

Details of Assurances <u>to be pursued further</u> by the Committee on Government Assurances at their sitting held on 26.04.2012.

Sl. No.	Memo No.	Question/ Discussion Reference	Ministry/ Department	Brief Subject	Observations of the Committee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	4	USQ No. 4130 dated 16.12.2002	Civil Aviation	Strategy for Traffic Development	The Committee noted that the Ministry has informed that in spite of best efforts made to obtain the information from the concerned Ministries/Departments/A&N Administration, it has not been possible for the Ministry to fulfill the assurance. Therefore, the assurance be dropped. The Committee were of the opinion that the contention of the Ministry was not tenable and further noted that the assurance was pending since 2003 and emphasized that all out efforts be made to collect the information and the long pending assurance be implemented at the earliest.
2.	5	SQ No. 6 dated 21.7.2003	Culture	Theft of Antiques	The Committee outrightly rejected the contention of the Ministry that all necessary steps within the mandate of Ministry of Culture have been taken and assurance has been fulfilled. The Committee desired that cases under progress/pending with Police & CBI be expedited and the assurance be implemented.
3.	6	USQ No. 3050 dated 13.8.2003	Women and Child Development	National Action Plan for Empowerment of Women	The Committee noted that as part of the Strategic Plan for the next five years, the Ministry envisages finalization of the Plan of Action after undertaking

					extensive consultations on the National Policy for Empowerment of Women. The Committee, therefore, desired to be apprised of the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard and also desired that utmost priority be given to the matter as it relates to the empowerment of women.
4.	7	USQ No. 4022 dated 17.5.2006	Planning	Implementation of RGGV Yojana	The Committee noted that the assurance is pending since 2006 and desired that necessary steps be taken to implement the assurance.
5.	8	(i) SQ No. 85 dated 17.8.2007 (ii) SQ No. 350 dated 14.12.2009 (iii) USQ No. 1770 dated 8.3.2010 (iv) USQ No. 3543 dated 16.8.2010 (v) USQ No. 990 dated 15.11.2010	Rural Development	Finalization of BPL List Recommendations of Saxena Committee Census of BPL Families Agricultural Labourers under BPL List Survey for BPL Population	The Committee noted that a Socio-Economic & Caste Census (SECC) targeted to be completed by December, 2011 was launched on 29th June, 2011 in the country. The Committee, therefore, desired to know the outcome thereof and further desired that the said process be brought to it logical conclusion.

6.	9	USQ No. 610 Dated 3.3.2008	Culture	Scanning and uploading of written material on computers	The Committee noted that the assurance relates to digitization of old and rare books/manuscripts available with public libraries, they therefore desired that this process be completed and the assurance be implemented.
7.	14	USQ No. 362 Dated 7.7.2009	Road Transport & Highways	Construction of 4-Lane Road between Jalandhar by-pass to Dhilwan-Amritsar	The Committee noted that the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) proposal including cost updation and revised financial analysis will be submitted after updation of the DPR. The Committee desired that all necessary steps in this regard be taken expeditiously and the Committee be informed accordingly.
8.	15	USQ No. 1592 Dated 15.7.2009	Health & Family Welfare	Trauma Centres along National Highways	The Committee *inter-alia* noted with concern that as on date out of 113 Government hospitals for which funds were sanctioned, only in 16 hospitals Trauma Care facilities are partially available/functional and an amount of Rs. 100 crores have been provided for the purpose. The Committee, therefore, desired that whole mechanism be streamlined and Trauma Centres along National Highways be set up.
9.	19	USQ No. 4033 dated 15.12.2009	Agriculture	High Yielding Varieties of Crops	The Committee noted that the assurance was given on the basis of information provided by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the DBT has informed that no time frame can be given for establishment of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India. The Committee in the first instance desired to know the steps taken by DBT since 2009 till date.

10.	24	USQ No. 5408 dated 28.4.2010	Human Resource Development	Quality of Engineering Education	The view of the Ministry that the assurance is redundant as Planning Commission & Department of Expenditure has suggested for inclusion of scheme of expansion & modernization of 200 State Engineering Institution be included in 12th Five Year Plan, was not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee desired that they be apprised of the steps taken to include the said scheme in 12th Five Year Plan.
11.	26	USQ No. 6481 dated 5.5.2010	Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	Probe of Financial Irregularities by Bureaucrats	The Committee noted that in a period of just one year as many as 153 complaints against Chief Executives, Functional Directors of Public Sector Banks & Financial Institutions were received and a final decision has been taken in respect of 70 complaints so far. However, the remaining 83 complaints are still under examination. The Committee, therefore, desired that the remaining complaints be brought to their logical conclusion and the assurance implemented at the earliest.
12.	30	USQ No. 2386 dated 24.11.2010	Human Resource Development	Corruption in AICTE	The Committee noted that in reply to USQ No. 2386 dated 24.11..2010, the Ministry informed that CBI has registered 04 cases against Chairman, AICTE and as many as 14 cases against other officials of AICTE. The Committee were of the opinion that by registering of cases by CBI the Ministry does not get absolved from the responsibility of implementing the assurance. The Committee, therefore, desired that the matter be taken up with CBI for expediting the pending assurances.

13.	31	USQ No. 2692 dated 25.11.2010	Railways	Sport Specific Academies	The Committee noted that the Ministry has informed that efforts and measures are being taken to set up Sport Specific Academies in various parts of the country. The Committee were, therefore, anxious to know the details of such measures in the first instance.
14.	35	USQ No. 4174 dated 6.12.2010	Communications & Information Technology	Interception of Mobile Calls	The Committee rejected the plea of the Ministry that since the action has already been initiated to enhance the penalty by amending the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the assurance be considered as fulfilled. The Committee were of the view that the desired amendment in the said Act be brought before the Parliament at the earliest.
15.	38	SQ No. 108 dated 3.3.2011	Law and Justice	Alleged Corruption in Judiciary	The Committee noted that the two Judges involved in the matter have resigned/retired, while the Committee constituted under the provision of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 was examining the issue. The Committee, desired to know whether by resignation/retirement of the judges the work of the Committee inquiring the issue comes to an end & whether it does not warrant further action against the judges under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1908?.
16.	39	USQ No. 2483 dated 10.3.2011	Railways	Educational Institutions	The Committee noted that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has called for feasibility report from Regional Offices/Field Offices of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) in respect of locations suggested by Ministry of Railways for setting up

					Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Committee desired to know the outcome thereof. Apart from this, the Committee felt that setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Railway habitation be accorded priority for the benfit of Railway wards.
17.	40	USQ No. 229 dated 1.8.2011	Defence	Indigenous Aircraft Carrier	The Committee accepted the contention of the Ministry that defence acquisition is a continuous process undertaken in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure, however, in the larger interest of the security of the country, the Committee were of the opinion that as far as possible the defence acquisitions be completed in a time bound manner. The Committee were anxious to know the present status of the procurement of the 'INS Vikramaditya' and 'Air Defence Ship'.

MINUTES

NINTH SITTING

Minutes of the sitting of the Committee on Government Assurances (2011-2012) held on 14 May, 2012 in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

The Committee sat from 1500 hours to 1615 hours on Monday 14 May, 2012.

PRESENT

CHAIRPERSON

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

Members

2. Shri Hansraj G. Ahir
3. Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury
4. Shrimati J. Helen Davidson
5. Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra
6. Rajkumari Ratna Singh
7. Shri Jagdanand Singh

Secretariat

1.	Shri P. Sreedharan	-	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri R.S. Kambo	-	Director
3.	Shri T.S. Rangarajan	-	Additional Director

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them about the agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following draft reports without any amendment:-

(i) 19th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (acceded to).

(ii) 20th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (not acceded to).

(iii) 21st Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present them to the House in the current Session itself.

3. xx xx xx xx xx

The Committee then adjourned.